

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending. Claims 1-38 were rejected in the Final Office Action dated December 22, 2008. Reconsideration of all rejected claims is requested in light of the arguments and amendments presented here.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over E.P. Patent No. 0738991 A2 to Quest et al. ("Quest") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0138594 to Rowe ("Rowe").

Claim 1 is amended to recite, "said master gaming controller located in a main cabinet of the gaming machine... at least one of said one or more major components comprises a top box that contains a plurality of peripheral devices... and a universal gaming engine located outside the main cabinet." Claim 1 as amended is supported throughout the specification, for example by FIG. 3 (reproduced here)

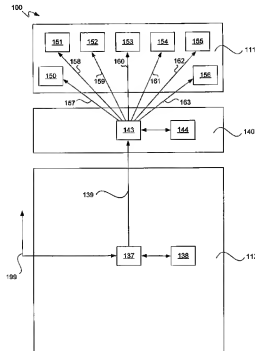


FIG. 3

"Main cabinet 112 contains numerous items and devices, notably a MGC 137..." paragraph 0050. "Top box 111 contains numerous items and devices itself, with peripheral

devices 150-156 being shown here for purposes of illustration,” paragraph 0052. “Universal top box engine 140 also contains numerous items and devices, notably at least one dedicated processing unit, such as a CPU 143...” paragraph 0051.

No such combination is shown by the cited references. In particular, the cited portions of Quest appear to refer to an entertainment machine with removable panels (column 2, lines 29-43), but Quest does not disclose that such panels comprise a top box, or that a universal game engine is located outside the main cabinet in the manner of claim 1. In particular, it seems that the “central microprocessor based control system” of Quest is cited as a universal gaming engine. However, Quest refers to, “a central microprocessor based control system within the housing...” column 3, lines 15-16. “Also within the housing there is a microprocessor-based control system and a payout mechanism connected to a payout outlet (not shown),” column 5, lines 16-18. Quest does not appear to show any other microprocessor.

To the extent that GTDR 100 of Rowe is cited as the master gaming controller of claim 1, it is submitted that the cited portions of Rowe do not show GTDR 100 located in a main cabinet of the gaming machine.

Because the above described features of claim 1 have not been shown, claim 1 is submitted to be allowable.

Independent claims 22, 23, 33, and 38 are each amended to recite additional features including the master game controller or processing means being “located in a main cabinet of the gaming machine” and the universal gaming engine or universal engine means “located outside the main cabinet.” These amendments are similarly supported to the corresponding amendments to claim 1. As discussed with respect to claim 1, these features are not shown by the cited references. Furthermore, claims 23, 33, and 38 recite “said one or more major components comprises a top box that contains a plurality of peripheral devices.” However, Quest does not appear to disclose such a feature.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 7, 10, 25, 30, and 35 are amended for clarity and consistency with the independent claims from which they depend. All dependent claims depend from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore submitted to be allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim, and further for reciting additional features that are not shown in the cited references.

For example, claim 4 as amended recites, “said universal gaming engine is interposed

between said main cabinet and said top box.” This amendment is supported throughout the specification, for example at FIG. 3. Claim 4 further distinguishes over the cited references because Quest does not show any such element between upper region housing 1 and panel 9.

Claims 8-9, 28-29, and 36-37 are cancelled.

New Claims

Claims 39-40 are added. Claims 39 and 40 are supported throughout the specification, for example at paragraph 0052. Claims 39 and 40 further distinguish over the cited references because the features recited in claims 39 and 40 do not appear to be shown in the cited references.

Information Disclosure Statement

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith. It is respectfully requested that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement be considered and the PTO Form 1449 be initialed and returned with the next Action.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of its allowance is solicited. However, if the Examiner has any further matters that need to be resolved, a telephone call to the undersigned at 510-663-1100 would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
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